

**REMARKS**

In light of the amendments above and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 10, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (US 5,912,780).

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites in part as follows:

"... transfer means capable for transferring said tape-shaped recording medium in a forward direction in both a recording mode and a reproducing mode and capable for transferring said tape-shaped recording medium in a reverse direction in both said recording mode and said reproducing mode ..."

The recording apparatus of claim 1 includes a transfer means that is capable for transferring the tape-shaped recording medium in a forward direction in both a recording mode and a reproducing mode. The transferring means can also transfer the tape-shaped recording medium in a reverse direction in both a recording mode and a reproducing mode.

Yamada, as applied by the Examiner, does not appear to disclose the above feature of claim 1. That is, although Yamada discloses a recording operation and a reproducing operation, Yamada does not appear to disclose a transfer means capable of "transferring said tape-shaped recording medium in a reverse direction in both said recording mode and said reproducing mode," as in claim 1. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Yamada.

For similar or somewhat similar reasons to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 10 and 22 are believed to be distinguishable from Yamada.

The Examiner objected to claims 1-9, 11-21, and 23-40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants believe that the Examiner meant to object to claims 2-9, 11-21, and 23-42 and not claims 1-9, 11-21, and 23-40. Claims 2-9, 11-21, and 23-42 depend on one of independent claims 1, 10, and 22, and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from Yamada for at least the reasons previously described. Accordingly, withdrawal of the above objection is respectfully requested.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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